

## STRONG MESSAGE TO CRIMINALS

**HON. STEVEN SCHIFF**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill, along with the following Members of Congress: Mr. MCCOLLUM, Ms. DUNN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BEREUTER, and Mr. REDMOND.

In 1994, Three Strikes and You're Out became law. 18 U.S.C. 3559(c) provides for mandatory life imprisonment for individuals who commit more than two serious violent felonies or serious drug offenses. I supported this law and continue to believe that it can be a very important tool for law enforcement. There is, however, a loophole in the Three Strikes law: It applies only to individuals sentenced as adults. The Three Strikes law allows juveniles who commit serious violent felonies and serious drug offenses to rack up as many of these offenses as possible, then ignores those offenses once they become adults.

This bill would require that a juvenile adjudication for an offense that would be considered a serious violent felony or serious drug offense if committed by an adult, count as one and only one strike for purposes of 18 U.S.C. 3559(c). This bill would hold accountable juveniles who commit serious violent criminal offenses, if they continue their criminal activity as adults. By making individuals accountable for the serious violent crimes they commit as juveniles, I believe we send a strong message that we are tough on criminals—of all ages.

## TRIBUTE TO ALBERT L. PICCETTI

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, about a year ago, at the invitation of Rosemary Mucklow, I had the opportunity to go to San Francisco and speak to the National Meat Association. While there, Rosemary invited us to a reception at the home of Agnes and Al Piccetti. It was a wonderful house perched high on the slope of one of San Francisco's many hillsides. The view was spectacular, the food tremendous, and the host family as delightful and graceful as a California spring day.

The Piccetti, Gatto, and DeMartini family members made us all feel at ease. Their home was ours. Their generosity was ours to enjoy. Their obvious and apparent success was ours to celebrate.

How did one get to live such a life? How was it that the family of first generation of Americans could experience such a generous slice of prosperity and affluence? Was it luck? Desire? Hard work? Or belief in a greater ideal and that of the American dream?

I left believing it was the latter. Mr. and Mrs. Piccetti had put in their time, taken risk, worked long hours, persevered and succeeded, but throughout their highs and lows, victories and defeats, they believe in America. What it stands for and what an individual can accomplish in our great system of enterprise and government.

Their story is worth telling. Ms. Mucklow was kind enough to write a brief biography, and I am honored to enter it into the RECORD.

## ALBERT L. PICCETTI

Albert Piccetti was born to John and Viola Piccetti in 1918 at their home in the North Beach Community of San Francisco, California. He grew up on Telegraph Hill, a working class neighborhood that was home to new immigrants from Italy and Spain. Eight-year-old Albert learned the value of hard work as soon as he was old enough to accompany his father on his garbage pick-up route through the streets of San Francisco. As one of his earliest work memories, Al remembers his father persuading a reluctant team of Clydesdale horses to back up on a wooden ramp to empty the wagon's haul for the day.

Surrounded by the strong work ethic of new Americans, young Al's first business venture was as a shoe shine entrepreneur. After painstakingly building his shoe box, Al was ready for his first customers in Washington Park. It wasn't long before he received a lesson in "sales territories" from the established shoe shine boys. It was to be Al's shortest business endeavor!

At the age of 16, Albert became the sole support of his parents and younger sister when his father suffered a debilitating stroke. Although not physically tall in stature, he survived the rigorous initiation of a partner-worker into the Golden Gate Scavenger Company working alongside men the age of his father as the primary breadwinner for the family.

He met his life's partner, Agnes Gatto, at the local Italian social club. She was chaperoned under the very watchful eyes of her brothers. When they return from their honeymoon, a draft notice from Uncle Sam was waiting. During the war years, Al was most proud of her certification as an instrument flight trainer and used his natural drawing talents to instruct new pilots.

Following the war, Al joined his wife's family in operating a local bar and grill in the produce and printing district of San Francisco. Al took this opportunity to sharpen his culinary skills, which are still widely appreciated today by friends and family!

In 1957, Al Piccetti, along with his brother-in-law, Felix Gatto, and his boyhood friend, Ernie DeMartini, purchased a family-run Italian sausage factory, and kept the name: San Francisco Sausage Company. They learned every aspect of their new business making traditional Italian salame. The company was, and is today, best known for its Columbus brand salame. Considered more an art than a science at the time, their growing success soon demanded a larger manufacturing plant. Moving a cured dry sausage operation entailed unknown risks due to the fastidious requirements of the white, Penicillin-type molds that grow on the surface of the salame as it matures. Those early years were a challenge to their fortitude in unraveling the mysteries of mycology. Albert was on the forefront of implementing new scientific methods to ensure the safety and tradition of the product that his forefathers introduced to the United States. After almost 30 years in the business, Albert retired from the San Francisco Sausage Company as President and CEO in 1985. He and his partners left the business in the hands of the next generation of Piccettis, Gattos, and DeMartinis.

Upon retiring and with his four children grown, Al, characteristically, moved on to pursue a new dream. Al and Agnes Piccetti purchased hillside acreage in the Dry Creek Valley of Sonoma County, north of San Francisco. Local realtors scratched their heads in puzzlement at his choice of undeveloped scrub brush property; but, Al already envisioned the slopes lush with grapevines. The newly retired couple spent their nights

in a small trailer, with Al busy designing and planting their first vineyard. In time, they built their home. Al's designs are evident in every facet of the AA Ranch: precise layout and trellising of the grapes; the functional beauty of the iron work in the ceiling beams; and, the careful placement of stone water causeways.

Al Piccetti's warmth, generosity and friendship have touched thousands of people in his communities, church, family, and business. Al's accomplishments are the story of the American Dream of hard work, love, dedication and respect. We're pleased to place this acknowledgement of his continuing life in the RECORD.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS.  
PHYLLIS THIELE HILL**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding teacher and friend, Phyllis Thiele Hill.

Phyllis passed away March 15, 1997 leaving behind her loving husband of 50 years, Robert Hill, and three beautiful children, Linda, Nancy, and Rusty. She began her career at Montgomery College in 1959, where she worked for 34 years. In 1961, Phyllis became secretary to the registrar. In 1965, she was promoted to data processing operator II, and 4 years later, advanced to data processing operator supervisor. She switched to Standards and Documentation Technician for Computing Services in 1983, where she utilized her phenomenal artistic and writing skills. She created much of the documentation, newsletters, and handbooks used by the college community.

Most people look forward to retirement, but not Phyllis. She enjoyed her work and passed on that enjoyment to everyone whose life she touched at Montgomery College in the 34 years she spent there. In fact, during my tenure as professor at the college, I had the pleasure of working with her. Phyllis' hard work and dedication merited numerous awards, including three for outstanding service, a peer award, and a sustained service award.

In June of 1995, Phyllis was diagnosed with lymphoma, which she fought courageously before succumbing to the sickness. Though this marked the end of her physical life, Phyllis' contributions are still felt in the hearts of the many people she has touched. Her memory continues to live with us all.

IN HONOR OF THE CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland during the yearlong celebration of serving northeast Ohio for 150 years.

The diocese was established in 1847 and originally served 10,000 Catholics. Today, nearly one million people in northeast Ohio